



FEBRUARY 7, 2013

IN THIS ISSUE

(Click on the titles below to jump to a particular story)

[Averting "Meat-Axe" Budget Cuts to Protect Jobs in Maine](#)

[Bill Would Boost Economic Development, Create Jobs at Former Military Bases, Including Brunswick Naval Air Base](#)

[Concern Grows Over Job Corps Centers](#)

[Senator Collins Recognized for Commitment to U.S. Navy](#)

[Bipartisan Support for Violence Against Women Act](#)

[Encouraging Bangor-Area Girl Scouts](#)

[Meeting With Mainer](#)

AVERTING "MEAT-AXE" BUDGET CUTS TO PROTECT MAINE JOBS

This week, Senator Collins joined Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) in sending a letter to Senate Leaders Harry Reid and Mitch McConnell that calls for a balanced, bipartisan deficit reduction solution that protects jobs and national security interests. The letter and call for action comes in the wake of the United States Navy announcing extraordinary budget-cutting measures in preparation for further cuts under sequestration.

From the [Portland Press Herald](#):

Collins and Shaheen wrote a letter to Senate leaders expressing their "commitment to a balanced, bipartisan deficit reduction solution" to avoid cuts threatening jobs in their states.

"This month, we are starting to see the very real and negative consequences of our inaction to our national security and to the economic and financial health of our country," Collins and Shaheen wrote to Democratic Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Republican Minority Leader Mitch McConnell.

The two also raised concerns about the effects of the cuts on non-defense programs, such as federal assistance to schools, the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"(The) best way to avoid sequestration is to stop avoiding the choices we have to make and get our long-term debt and deficits under control," they wrote. "This will require reforms to all areas of spending, including domestic, mandatory and defense, as well as comprehensive tax reform."

Read the entire article by clicking [**here**](#). To read the letter, click [**here**](#).

"THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF GIRL SCOUTING"

By Senator Susan Collins

The U.S. Senate set a record in early January when 20 women were sworn into office. This is the largest number of women Senators in history, and I am honored to be among this historic group. A little known fact, however, is that 14 of us-or 70 percent-are former Girl Scouts!

The Girl Scouts of America is the world's preeminent organization dedicated solely to developing a young woman's character for future success. Today, there are more than 3.7 million members in 236,000 troops throughout the United States, including more than 16,000 girl and adult members here in Maine. The program continues to inspire, challenge, and empower young females across the nation. Since its founding in 1912, the Girl Scouts has grown to incorporate more than 10 million girls and adults in 145 different countries, including more than 50 million American women.



(In May 2012, Senators Collins and Shaheen visited the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard to look at the damage caused by a fire on board the nuclear submarine, USS Miami.)



(Senator Collins recently met with Bangor-area Girl Scouts. Click the image to view a larger version.)

As a former Girl Scout in my home town of Caribou, I have such fond memories of earning badges, and I remember how wonderful it was to learn new skills. I especially enjoyed the two summers that I went to Camp Natarwi in Millinocket for a couple of weeks. Now, as a U.S. Senator, I am proud to be a co-leader, along with Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), of "Troop Capitol Hill."

Girl Scouts of America recently marked

BILL WOULD BOOST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CREATE JOBS AT FORMER MILITARY BASES, INCLUDING BRUNSWICK NAVAL AIR STATION

From the *[Kennebec Journal](#)*:

WASHINGTON - Maine's two U.S. senators teamed up to file their first joint bill last week, co-sponsoring a measure that aims to draw more private companies to former military bases such as the Brunswick Naval Air Station.

Right now, companies located in Historically Underutilized Business Zones -- government-ese for areas that need more economic development -- can qualify for preferential treatment when it comes to landing federal contracts. These "HUBzones" include former military bases closed due to downsizing.

One of the problems with HUBzones, Sens. Susan Collins and Angus King said, is that 35 percent of a company's work force would have to live within the footprint of the Brunswick Naval Air Station, now known as Brunswick Landing. Additionally, the eligibility window to participate is too narrow.

"This issue exacerbates the difficulties for us and similar communities to overcome the

its 100th anniversary. I was pleased to lead a Resolution, passed unanimously in the Senate, recognizing 2012 as the "Year of the Girl." Our Resolution highlighted the importance of empowering girls to lead with courage, confidence, and character. In addition, in late February, the U.S. Mint will begin issuing the "Girl Scouts USA Centennial Commemorative Coin," as a result of a bill that Senator Mikulski and I authored, and the President signed, in 2009.

Proceeds from the sale of these coins will benefit the Girl Scouts Centennial Year activities and the preservation of the birthplace of the Girl Scouts' founder, Juliette Gordon Low in Savannah, Georgia, so that future generations of Girl Scouts will be able to pay tribute to the history of this notable organization.

Soon, Girl Scouts will begin the annual tradition of selling cookies to their friends and neighbors. While we all certainly take delight in these tasty treats, it's important to remember the true purpose of the cookie sale program. Selling cookies helps teach goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills, and business ethics-skills essential to leadership and a successful life.

The Girl Scouts have a tremendous history, which should be celebrated and remembered. The character, volunteerism, and leadership skills that Girl Scouts build contribute greatly to our society. Girl Scouts taught me that determination, principles, and respect for others can take you everywhere you want to go-including to the halls of the United States Capitol. It's no coincidence that so many of the women Senators that I serve with today were Girl Scouts because scouting teaches so many important lessons. I am delighted to honor this fine organization as it celebrates the beginning of its second century of education and empowering young women.

devastating economic effects of base closures," Steven Levesque, executive director of the organization responsible for redeveloping Brunswick Landing, wrote to Collins.

The bill sponsored by King and Collins would allow companies to draw more workers from the surrounding towns or county and still qualify for the HUBzone program, which opens the door to sole-source contracting as well as giving a slight edge in competitive contracts.

Levesque said that his group, the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority, is negotiating with a company interested in bringing as many as 200 jobs to Brunswick Landing if the HUBzone rules can be expanded.

To read the entire article, click [here](#).



CONCERN GROWS OVER JOB CORPS CENTERS

From the [*Bangor Daily News*](#):

Sens. Susan Collins and Angus King joined Reps. Mike Michaud and Chellie Pingree in drafting a letter to the U.S. Department of Labor's acting secretary, Seth Harris, expressing "deep concerns" that the move might cripple the program in the long term.

The Department of Labor officially announced the enrollment shutdown on Jan. 28. The freeze is expected to last until at least June 30.

"The department's decision to suspend all new student enrollments to Job Corps centers will leave thousands of youth without access to the largest residential youth education and training program for disadvantaged youth age 16 to 24," the letter states.

Department of Labor spokesman Edmund Fitzgerald said Jan. 30 that the Job Corps, which is looking at a \$1.5 billion budget for 2013, would face a \$61.5 million shortfall if it didn't halt enrollment.

Job Corps provides free job training in manufacturing, construction and other career paths. Training can take from eight months to two years, according to the Job Corps website.

In the letter, the delegation stated that it was "troubled" to learn of a \$39 million shortfall in program year 2011. That shortfall was addressed through "difficult cost-saving measures," as well as the transfer of funds from other Job Corps discretionary accounts. The politicians said they were "disturbed" to learn that the problem has persisted and grown since 2011.

There are two Jobs Corps centers in Maine: The Loring Jobs Corps Center in Limestone and the Penobscot Job Corps Center in Bangor.

To continue reading the article, click [here](#). To read the actual letter, click [here](#).

SENATOR COLLINS RECOGNIZED FOR COMMITMENT TO U.S. NAVY

Ray Mabus, the Secretary of the United States Navy, presented Senator Collins with the Distinguished Public Service Award in a ceremony in her Washington, D.C. office. This award, established in 1951, is the highest public service honor bestowed by the Department of the Navy and is awarded to civilians for service that benefits the Navy, Marine Corps and Department of the Navy.

The citation reads:

"For exceptional service to the Department of the Navy as a member of Congress and the Senate Armed Services Committee. Senator Collins' long and selfless service to the Nation's Sailors and Marines ensured they were provided the resources necessary to support and defend the Nation's interests around the globe. Her strong leadership as Ranking Member of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee greatly contributed to the quality of the United States' naval forces, continued support for quality of life for the men and women of the Department of the Navy, and assured the Navy-Marine Corps team was the most lethal in history. Senator Collins' tireless advocacy of shipbuilding programs assured the highest levels of readiness for our combat forces. With grateful appreciation for her 16 years of service to the Nation and for her outstanding contributions to the Navy and Marine Corps, the Honorable Susan Collins is awarded the Department of the Navy Distinguished Public Service Award."



(Watch video from the ceremony by clicking the image above)

BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

Senator Collins spoke on the Senate floor in support of reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act, which would enhance judicial review and law enforcement tools to combat violence against women and improve services for victims of domestic violence. The Senate is expected to vote on the measure this week.



(Watch video of the speech by clicking the image above)

ENCOURAGING BANGOR-AREA GIRL SCOUTS

As a former Girl Scout in her hometown of Caribou, and as the co-leader, along with Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), of “Troop Capitol Hill” in Washington, D.C., Senator Collins is a strong supporter of The Girl Scouts of America. She recently met with a group of Girl Scouts in Bangor to talk about the positive impact that being a Girl Scout has had on her life and how the skills and character that the program develops in its girls can lead to future success.

“Emphasis on character, confidence, and courage are qualities that will last them throughout their entire lives,” Senator Collins said in an interview with WLBZ Bangor after meeting with the girls.

She also spoke about the “Girl Scouts USA Centennial Commemorative Coin Act,” a bill she introduced in 2009 that the President signed into law (see a picture of the bill signing [here](#)). The law directs the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative silver dollar coins to be issued later this month, which will benefit the Girl Scout Centennial Year activities.



(To view video from the meeting, click the image above)

Did you know?

The U.S. Senate set a record in early January when 20 women were sworn into office—the largest number of women Senators in history. Fourteen—or 70 percent of them—are former Girl Scouts!



MEETING WITH MAINERS

Senator Collins always makes time to meet individually with constituents— either Mainers who are visiting Washington, D.C. or at home in Maine.

She values hearing from Mainers on a wide range of topics. Here are a few photos from recent meetings:



Top left: Kristin Malin and Dr. Connie Brown of the Maine School Boards Association

Top right: Charlotte and John Joseph of Brunswick

Center left: Soni Waterman of LearningWorks Youth Building Alternatives program in Portland

Center right: Kelly Bickmore and Marlene Tallent of the Maine School Boards Association

Bottom left: Shelly Mood and Alana Margeson, teachers from Oakland and Caribou

Bottom right: Lisa Howard, Orthodontist from Scarborough



OFFICE OF SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS

413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 224-2523
Fax: (202) 224-2693

To UNSUBSCRIBE, **[please click here](#)**